

Junior 'Riggers Compete at Volleyball Junior Nationals

OCC sent three junior teams to the Junior National Volleyball Championships in Dallas, Texas this summer with the Boys 14s winning a bronze medal.



Boys 13
Row 1: DJ McInerny, Jon Stanley, Shea Suzumoto, Connor McInerny, Drew Watumull, Kainoa Downing.
Row 2: Coach Danny McInerny, Parker Van Dyke, Easton Kays, Clay Stanley, Ethan Siegfried, Kana'i Akana, Aukai Manson, Coach Tony McInerny.

Boys 13

To say that this season has been a journey is an understatement. The boys started in October with tryouts and finished in Dallas for the National Championships (previously called Junior Olympics). The team was comprised of 14 boys who practiced over nine months and 11 of them made the trip to Dallas.

Through hard work and a strong desire to succeed the boys found their rhythm at the tournament. The Boys 13s took the Silver Bracket championship and finished playing their best ball the last two days of the tournament.

The boys' beat a team in their final game that had beat them earlier in the week. They also gave the first place team, Borinquen Coqui, a team from Puerto Rico, a run for their money, earning their respect and friendship. The teams took pictures together and exchanged uniforms.

Besides playing some great volleyball the boys were able to attend the USA vs. Italy match, and cheer on OCC's very own Olympian Clay Stanley.



Boys 14
Row 1: Keala Martinson, Wil Stanley, Ke'ea Lum, Matthew Saffery, Rohan Watumull. Row 2: Coach Jon Stanley, Kainoa Quindica, Hunter Johnson, Todd Gruebner, Chaperone Kevin Quindica.

Boys 14

The 14s, coached by Jon Stanley, started their competition at Junior Nationals in the Club division on July 2, in a five-team pool. They finished the first day undefeated, winning all four matches.

On the second day, the team played three matches and again finished undefeated. On the third day, the team won two matches and lost one, which placed them in the semi-fi-

nals of the Gold Division.

It was Outrigger and the three teams from Puerto Rico playing for the medals on the final day. OCC lost the first match pushing them into the Bronze medal match. The team's final match was played on center court, with announcers introducing the team and calling every play. The match was also webcast live for those who were up early enough in Hawaii to see the match unfold in real time.

The team won handily in two sets (25-18, 25-16). The Outrigger 14s, the only team from the United States that medaled, proudly stood on the podium to receive their Bronze medals. It was an exciting tournament for the boys, who finished third out of 27 teams and most of whom were playing at Junior Nationals for the first time.

Playing on the team were Todd Gruebner (Punahou), Hunter Johnson (Punahou), Ke'ea Lum (Kamehameha), Ke'ala Martinson (Punahou), Kainoa Quindica (Punahou), Matt Saffery (Kawanakoa, and who had just turned 11), Wil Stanley (Punahou) and Rohan Watumull (Punahou, who flew back from London to play with his team!). Congratulations to the Outrigger 14s team!



Boys 18
Row 1: Kyle Poppinga, Dylan Gerard, Kolby Kanetake, Kyle Kekina, Sean Gruebner. Row 2: Asst. Coach Victor Poppinga, Daniel Fraser, Nick Andrews, Gabriel Vega, Nainoa Frank, Coach Vern Podlewski.

Boys 18

The Outrigger 18s team, comprised of five graduates going on to college in the fall and four incoming seniors, and coached by Vern Podlewski and Victor Poppinga, started their competition at Junior Nationals on July 1.

Playing in the Club division, the team won two of three matches in the first day of pool play, battling through injuries to two players. The second day proved to be just as challenging as the team found itself in the bronze division at day's end.

On the third day, the team showed resilience and won all three matches. On the final day, the team won their first two matches, but eventually lost their last match in three sets.

The boys, who had not played with each other prior to this year, enjoyed their time together as a team. Playing on the team were Nicholas Andrews (University of Colorado at Boulder), Nainoa Frank (Kalaheo), Daniel Fraser (Kaiser), Dylan Gerard (Punahou), Sean Gruebner (UCLA), Kolby Kanetake (University of Hawaii Manoa), Kyle Kekina (Iolani), Kyle Poppinga (University of Hawaii Manoa) and Gabriel Vega (Stanford).